

What is claimed is

1. A coupler comprising:  
an optical fiber receiving structure; and  
a fiber stop attached to said receiving structure; and  
wherein said fiber stop has an index of refraction  
approximately the same as the index of refraction  
of a core of said optical fiber.
2. The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a  
window.
3. The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a  
glass material.
4. The coupler of claim 2, wherein the window comprises a  
plastic material.
5. The coupler of claim 1, wherein said fiber stop is a  
lens.

6. The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.
7. The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.
8. The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.
9. The coupler of claim 5, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.
10. A means for coupling comprising:
  - means for receiving an optical fiber;
  - means for stopping a received optical fiber, attached to said means for receiving an optical fiber; and
  - wherein said means for stopping a received optical fiber has an index of refraction approximately equal to an index of refraction of the received optical fiber.

11. The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a window.

12. The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a glass material.

13. The coupler of claim 11, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.

14. The coupler of claim 10, wherein said means for stopping is a lens.

15. The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.

16. The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.

17. The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.

18. The coupler of claim 14, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.
19. A method for coupling comprising:  
receiving an optical fiber or coupling; and  
restraining the receiving of the optical fiber with a mechanism having an index of refraction approximately equal to the index of refraction of the optical fiber.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein the mechanism is a window.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the window comprises a glass material.
22. The method of claim 20, wherein the window comprises a plastic material.
23. The method of claim 19, wherein the mechanism is a lens.

24. The method of claim 23, wherein the lens comprises a glass material.

25. The method of claim 23, wherein the lens comprises a plastic material.

26. The method of claim 23, wherein the lens is an aspherical lens.

27. The method of claim 23, wherein the lens is a spherical lens.

28. The method of claim 23, wherein the lens has a flat surface facing the optical fiber that may be received.

29. The method of claim 23, wherein the lens has a curved surface facing the optical fiber that may be received.

30. A coupler comprising:

a sleeve;

a window situated at a first end of said sleeve; and

a lens situated at a surface of said window opposite  
of a surface of said window proximate to said  
sleeve.

31. The coupler of claim 30, wherein:  
said sleeve has a diameter so that an optical fiber  
can be inserted with an end stopped by the  
surface of said window proximate to said sleeve;  
and  
said window has an index of refraction about the same  
as the index of refraction of optical fiber.
32. The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is a ball  
lens.
33. The coupler of claim 31, wherein said lens is formed  
on the surface of said window.
34. The coupler of claim 33, further comprising a light  
source proximate to said lens.